GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2029
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
DEVELOPING POSTAL AND TELECOM PROJECTS IN WB
Murmu Shri Rupchand

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of Postal and telecommunication projects in West Bengal particularly in the tribal/remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the targets fixed and achievements made during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to develop and strengthen postal and telecommunication system in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Targets and achievement regarding Expansion of Postal Network, including in tribal and remote areas, during the last three years are given in Annexure-I. Details of other plan schemes implemented during the last three years will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(ii) Targets and achievements made in West Bengal Telecom Circle during the last three years are given in Annexure-II.

(c) & (d)(i) Efforts will continue to be made to increase access to postal counter facilities, subject to compliance of norms and availability of resources. It is also targetted to computerize and network in all Head Post Offices. In some Sub-Post Offices with more than two hands, all important Administrative Offices and the office of the Director Postal Accounts by the end of the 10th Plan Period. Induction of technology will also be the focus of investment for improving mail processing through computerization of registration branches of mail offices and through setting up an Automatic Mail Processing Centre at Kolkata.

(ii) During the year 2004-05, BSNL has plans to expand the network by provision of 3,62,500 numbers of new telephone connections (which includes fixed, WLL & Cellular Mobile), 1200 Route Kms of Optical Fibre Cable and 30 Kilo Circuits of Trunk Automatic Exchange.